

**IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE
THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of	Appeal No.
Stefan VIRTANEN	Conf. 4900
Application No. 10/534,365	Group 3676
Filed December 5, 2005	Examiner D. Stephenson
A REAMER ASSEMBLY	

REPLY BRIEF

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORS: January 5, 2009

The Examiner's reading of claim 1 on BRANDENBERG et al. U.S. Patent 6,799,648 is erroneous. According to the Examiner, each of the conical segments (18) has plural drill buttons (one on the flat portion and one on the angled portion for a total of two) disposed at different distances from the center axis of the drill bit.

But in fact, in our claim 1, we recite at least three conical segments (18) which are terminated with a transverse end surface (21) which directly connects the conical segments, each of the conical segments (18) having plural drill buttons (16) disposed at different distances from the center axis of the drill bit.

Thus, in our claim 1, we clearly distinguish the conical segments (18) from the transverse end surface (21) which directly connects these conical segments.

Hence, you cannot count drill buttons on the transverse end surface (21) in combination with drill buttons on the conical segments (18), as satisfying the requirement that the drill buttons (16) on the conical segments (18) are disposed at difference distances from the center axis of the drill bit, as required by our claim 1.

Hence, the rejection of the claims on anticipation must fail, and its reversal is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert J. Patch/

Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573

RJP/lk